

An
Inaugural Essay
on
Gastritis,
Submitted
To the Provost and Medical Faculty
of
The University of Pennsylvania;
For
The degree of M.D.
By
Benjamin W. Moyler.
Sussex County
Virginia.

Mrs. Langhams - 76 N. 11th St.
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Gastritis.

Gastritis is by most nosologists, divided into two species; Viz. Phlegmonic and Erythematic; according as it attacks the nervous or peritoneal coats of the stomach, or the villous coat and cellular texture immediately subjacent to it. -

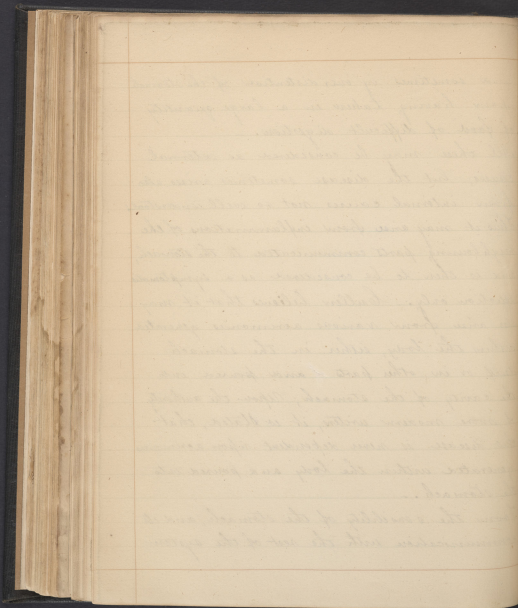
Cullen believes that the first of these may be seated in the nervous coat of the stomach, or in the peritoneum investing it, and the second species he supposes is always seated in the villous coat and cellular texture lying under it; - But this perhaps cannot be a cause of much difference; -

Gastritis, may arise from all the ordinary causes of inflammation, such as cold, stimulating or acrid matters swallowed, by external contusion or violence, repelled eruptions, retrocedent gout, frequently by very cold drink taken into the stomach when the body is very warm.

and sometimes by over distention of the stomach from having taken in a large quantity of food of difficult digestion. -

All these may be considered as external causes; but the disease sometimes arises also from internal causes not so well understood; Thus it may arise from inflammations of the neighbouring parts communicated to the stomach, and is then to be considered as a symptomatic affection only. - Cullen believes that it may also arise from various acrimonies generated within the body, either in the stomach itself, or in other parts and poured into the cavity of the stomach; Upon the authority of more modern writers, it is stated, that this disease is never dependent upon acrimonies generated within the body and poured into the stomach. -

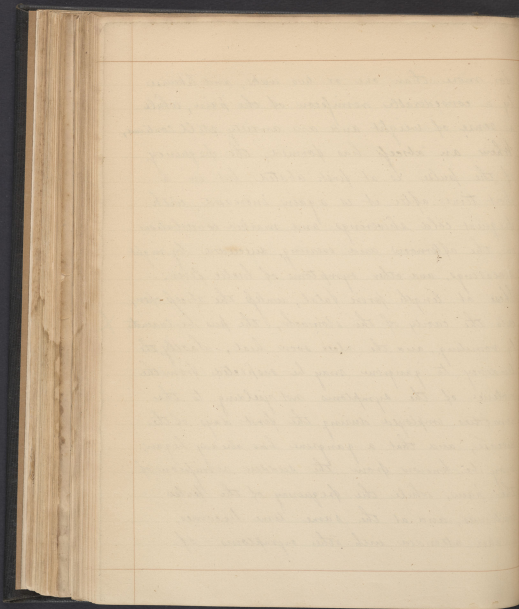
From the sensibility of the stomach, and its communication with the rest of the system,



it will be evident that the inflammation of this organ, by whatever cause produced may be attended with fatal consequences, particularly by the great debility which such an inflammation suddenly produces, it may quickly prove fatal, without running the ordinary course of inflammations; - Should it last sufficiently long to follow the common course of other inflammations, it may terminate by resolution, gangrene, or suppuration. The tendency of this disease to admit of resolution may be known by its having been produced from no violent cause, by the moderate state of the symptoms, and by a gradual diminution of these symptoms, especially in consequence of remedies employed in the course of the first or second week of the disease; - Again, a tendency of the disease to suppuration may be known, by the symptoms continuing in a moderate degree,

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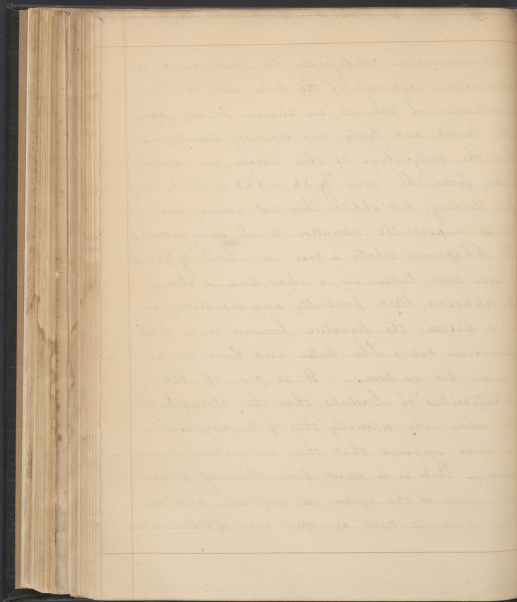
for more than one or two weeks, and likewise
by a considerable remission of the pain, while
a sense of weight and an anxiety still continue,
When an abscess has formed, the frequency
of the pulse is at first abated, but in a
short time after it is again increased, with
frequent cold shiverings, and marked exacerbations
in the afternoon and evening, succeeded by night
sweatings, and other symptoms of hectic fever: -
These at length prove fatal, unless the abscess opens
into the cavity of the stomach, the pus be evacuated, X
by vomiting, and the ulcer soon heal; - Lastly, the
tendency to gangrene may be suspected from the
violence of the symptoms not yielding to the
remedies employed during the first days of the
disease; and that a gangrene has already begun,
may be known from the sudden remission of
the pain, while the frequency of the pulse
continues, and at the same time becomes
weaker, attended with other symptoms of



increasing debility in the whole system:—
The symptoms of Gastritis, are acute pain in
the stomach; sourness, irritability, and frequent
vomiting, the pulse is commonly small and
hard, not quick in the commencement of the
disease, and there is a greater loss of strength
in all the functions of the body than in
almost any other inflammation; ~~and~~ in the
advanced stage of this disease, there is tension
of the epigastric and umbilical regions, uncommon
prostration of strength, the pulse is small, hard,
corded, and contracted; The disease is very rapid
in its course, and if not arrested an aggravation
of all these symptoms takes place, and particularly
of the debility; the patient has now so little strength
that he cannot be raised without fainting, his
eyes are wild, his countenance lank, his pulse
feeble, a hiccough, and a discharge of dark
matter takes place, similar to the black vomit;—
There is now a considerable distention of the abdomen

by wind, these are either the forerunners of
gangrene, or symptoms of its existence; -
In addition to these regular symptoms, there are
some others which are anomalous, these are
called delusive symptoms; Thus sometimes pain
takes place in the great toe resembling that
of Podagra, likewise inflammation and pain
in the groin; Dr. Physick has ~~formerly~~^{sometimes} known some
pain in the pudenda of women to attend the
inflammation of the stomach in yellow fever,
and believes the highest degree of pain always
denoted a fatal termination; There sometimes
also takes place in a highly inflamed stomach,
a spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the
arm, also a dislike for water, and intolerance
of light; - In the treatment of Gastritis, we
have to deal with an active inflammation
seated in a delicate organ, and rapid in its
course; - Our duty is then to meet it with the
most powerful and efficient means; In this

inflammation, confessedly the best remedy is
venesection, regardless of the pulse and of the
prostration of strength, we should boldly apply
the lancet and freely and copiously deplete;—
In the early stage of this disease, we should
take from the arm $\frac{1}{2}$ XX. or XXX of blood, at
one bleeding, but should this not answer, we
must repeat the operation to the same extent;—
Dr. Chapman relates a case in which $\frac{1}{2}$ 200 of
blood were taken in a short time;—Many
practitioners, bleed partially and repeatedly in
this disease, the practice however is a most
pernicious one;—The pulse and fever are no
guides for us here. — It is one of the
peculiarities of Gastritis, that the strength of
the whole body, especially that of the circulation is
so much impaired that there is hardly ever any
fever;— But as we abstract from the mass of blood,
the powers of the system are unfolded, and we
then have to treat an open case of inflammation.



In this disease a depressed state of the system is dependent upon too much stimulus, it has been illustrated by Sydenham, and much more by the Hippocrates of America, the late Dr. Benjamin Rush; Blisters are next in importance to the lancet; as the disease is primarily seated in the stomach, they should be applied to the region of that organ;— Considering the urgency of the case the blister should be large enough to cover the whole of the stomach;— This is the only way by which we can derive their greatest advantage; when they are small, we obtain from them but little advantage, but when large they do us no injury and become very efficacious;— Cooperating to the same end fomentations may be applied to the abdomen, such as large bladders of hot water or towels immersed in hot water or spirituous liquors and wrung out.— In consequence of the great irritability of the

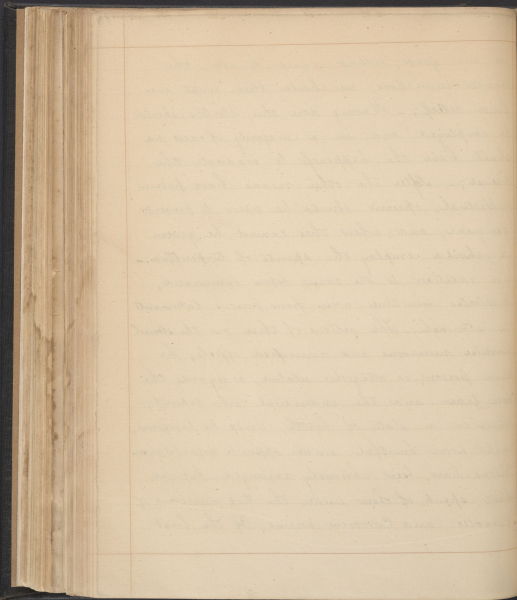
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stomach in Gastritis, we are precluded from
the use of internal remedies per os, which are
invariably rejected;— It however becomes necessary
to open the bowels, and this should be
accomplished by emollient injections, and as
their action is mechanical, they must be very
mild, and therefore should be large, as half
a pint of warm water with sweet oil and
melasses, and as the object is not only evacuation
but also fomentation, they must be frequently
repeated, pro re nata;— As soon as the
stomach is able to bear any thing, oil or
Calomel must be given as laxatives; Calomel
is to be preferred to the oil; One of the
peculiarities of Calomel is that it may be
administered in cases of inflamed bowels
without any apprehension of its aggravating the
disease; indeed it seems calculated to reduce
the inflammation;— Given in bolus, it will
be retained by the stomach without giving

any offence in a majority of cases; -
The sulphate of magnesia is also well suited
to these cases; this of all the salines proves
the least irritating; - It may be frequently
exhibited and will be retained when every
other article is rejected; - We should carefully
endeavour to calm the stomach from the
commencement of the disease; - The best remedy
for this purpose is lime water and milk; -
But cases sometimes occur in which decided
advantage is derived from anodyne injections;
these soothe pain, abate irritability of the
stomach, and produce general compo-
sure; at this time the warm bath will be found to
display effects very astonishing; poultices are
of much importance; - It is the practice
of some physicians to administer large draughts
of drinks, they are however pernicious; they
offend the stomach by their quantity and keep
up a continual vomiting; - The thirst in

this disease of which the patient so much complains is more effectually allayed by a moderate quantity of new milk than by copious drinks; - Mint-tea, and toast and water are also of much benefit in abating the thirst; - The warm bath has been highly extolled in the treatment of Gastritis; It is of advantage, but it should not be used until after we have employed the depleting measures; then it will be found of much advantage, not only by inducing perspiration and giving the disease a centrifugal character, but also by comforting the patient and allaying irritation; But after all, venesection and blisters are the sovereign remedies in this disease; - They should be largely and repeatedly employed; Venesection must be practised in the very early stages of the disease, and we should be intrepid in the use of the lancet; If however misused in a moderate degree, we will

do no good; without regard to all the counter indications, we should bleed until we find relief; - Having done this, blisters should be employed, and in a majority of cases we shall have the happiness to eradicate the disease; - After the other means have proved ineffectual, opium should be used to prevent gangrene, and when this cannot be given we should employ the spirits of turpentine; - In addition to the causes before enumerated, Gastritis sometimes arises from poisons taken into the stomach; - The actions of these on the stomach produce numerous and diversified effects; The term poison, is altogether relative, as regards the dose taken and the individual who takes it; What in a state of health would be beneficial, might prove hurtful under opposite circumstances. Poisons have been variously arranged, but we shall speak of them under the two divisions of Narcotic, and Corrosive poisons; Of the first-



clasp, Opium is most frequently taken to a dangerous extent, either from accident or with an intention to commit suicide; Under such circumstances the first indication would be to excite vomiting as quickly as possible, and for this purpose, the most active means should be employed. - The best Emetic in this case will be a combination of Tartar Emetic and Ipecacuanha; The sulphate of Copper is considered as eminently suited to cases of poison. Although these emetics are very prompt in their operation in most cases, yet when poisons have been taken into the stomach, there exists so much torpor of that organ, that they must be given in much larger doses than ordinary; It is proper to give from grs. VI. to VIII of Tartar Emetic in combination with grs. XX. or XXX of Ipecacuanha. - Should this fail to excite vomiting the dose should be repeated. - It sometimes happens that there is such loss of susceptibility in

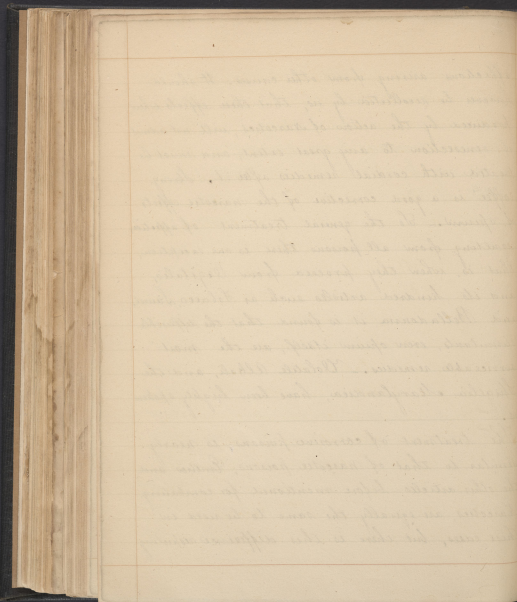
the stomach that no medicine will excite vomiting, in this case the distention of the stomach with warm water has sometimes produced the effect. — but a quart or two will be requisite. — Cataplasms of Tobacco applied to the epigastric region are amongst the best and most efficacious means of exciting vomiting; they here frequently produce that effect when every thing else had failed, All that is necessary, is to take a bundle of the leaves and immerse them in vinegar, and apply them; ℥j. of Tartar Emetic will often in these cases of torpor of the stomach produce vomiting when given in the form of enema, sometimes this effect may be obtained, by occasionally thrusting a Feather into the fauces, and it is a notorious fact, that susceptibility of the ~~fauces~~ remains after it has been completely destroyed in the stomach by narcotic poisons. — But should all the means above mentioned prove ineffectual, we must then resort to the use of an instrument —

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which Dr. Physick strenuously recommends in these cases; It is simply a catheter through which large quantities of fluids are conveyed into the stomach and again drawn out, and in this way the organ is literally washed out;— There are sometimes cases occurring, when notwithstanding the complete evacuation of the stomach of all its contents, the impression of the poison remains;— It is necessary that we should here combat the deleterious effects of the poison upon the system;— Our first duty then, is to stop stupor and stertorous breathing; to counteract this tendency it has been recommended to keep the patient in continual motion; and if nothing else will answer to shake him violently and repeatedly. — Much more good may be expected from inducing a counter impression by synapses applied to the extremities, or by stimulating injections; — In this way Dr. Chapman has ^{sometimes} ~~often~~ known

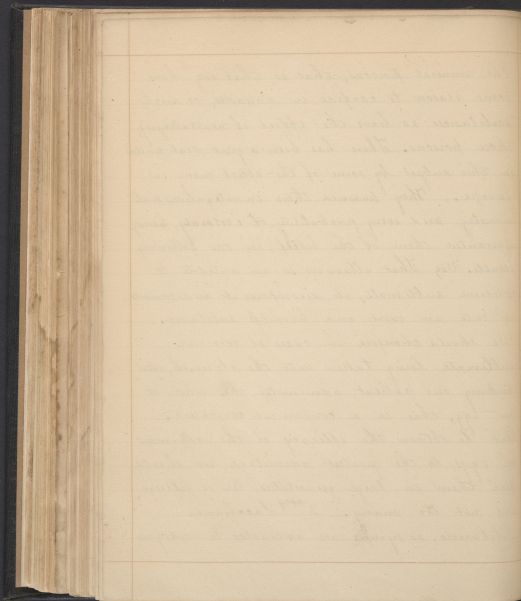
the disposition to sleep completely overcome, —
It has been recommended to produce the
counter irritation by whipping the patient,
this was deduced from an experiment made
on a dog by Boerhaave. — Notwithstanding the
effects of opium are of a most baneful nature,
yet in this experiment, though the largest dose was
given to the animal, it proved harmless and
inert from the counter irritation produced by
whipping; — In these cases the vegetable acids may
be used as palliatives at least; — The volatile alkali
has been highly spoken of in these cases; Dr.
Chapman has often known a table spoonful
of the volatile pulv or aqua ammonia to overcome
the tendency to sleep; — But after the employment
of all these means, it sometimes happens that we
cannot resist the occurrence of fever and
determination to the brain. The treatment here
is not peculiar, it is to be conducted upon the
general principles which are applicable to these

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affections arising from other causes. It should
however be recollected by us, that these effects when
produced by the action of narcotics, will not admit
of resection to any great extent, and must be
treated with cordial remedies after it. - Strong
coffee is a good corrective of the narcotic effects
of opium. - To the general treatment of affections
resulting from all poisons there is one exception,
that is, when they proceed from *Digitalis*,
and its kindred articles such as *Tobacco*, *Saunder*,
and *Belladonna*, it is found that the diffusible
stimulants, even opium itself, are the most
serviceable remedies. - Volatile Alkali, and the
Spigelia Marylandica, have been highly spoken
of.

The treatment of corrosive poisons, is nearly
similar to that of narcotic poisons; *Emetics* and
the other articles before mentioned for combating
Narcotics, are equally the same to be used in
these cases, but there is this difference respecting



the mineral poisons; that is, that we have some reason to confide in antidotes, or such substances as have the effect of neutralizing those poisons. There has been a great deal written on this subject by some of the ablest men in Europe. - They pursued their investigations with industry and every probability of certainty, having warranted them of the belief in the following results. Viz. That albumen is an antidote to corrosive sublimate, it decomposes it, and converts it into an inert and harmless substance. - We should therefore in cases of corrosive sublimate being taken into the stomach, after puking our patient, administer the whole of an egg, this is a convenient corrective. - But to obtain the efficacy of the albumen of eggs, to the greatest advantage, we should give them in large quantities, ten or fifteen are not too many. - 2nd Laccaine substances, as syrups are antidotes to rubeo



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or the acetate of copper, to be thoroughly
effectual in correcting the properties of this
substance, saccharine matter must be given in
large quantities, and it produces this happy
effect, that as soon as taken it terminates
the acute sufferings of the patient, and then
by its purgative power it sweeps out the poison
that has been taken into the stomach; - 3rd
Milk is an antidote to the muriate of Tin,
by a chemical action which takes place
the corrosive powers of the muriate are destroyed,
but it will be best to exhibit the milk with
large quantities of the muriate of soda; In
solution the muriate of soda will also act
as an antidote to silver; This should be
recalled by us, as nitrate of silver is
occasionally employed in practice and bad
effects will sometimes result from it; 4th The
sulphates of soda and magnesia are antidotes to
the preparations of Lead and Barytes, especially

to the acetate of Lead; 5^{thly} Strong decoctions
of bark, common Teas, a decoction of galls, and
all powerful astringents are antidotes to Tartar
Emetic and the other antimonial preparations;
6^{thly} Calcin'd magnesia is an antidote to
the mineral acids, but should be administered
early and in large doses to be efficacious;-
7^{thly} Acetic acid or very strong vinegar is an antidote
to the Alkalis;- As yet we have no antidote to
arsenic upon which we can fully rely; It was
believed by Bertram a French physician and
surgeon, that Carbon possessed that valuable
property, he even went so far as to say that
he had experienced it on himself with a view
to ascertain this fact, he states that in the
morning he swallowed a large dose of arsenic
and as soon as he began to feel its effects
he swallowed a tumbler of charcoal and
water, which entirely suspended them; he
further states that he made experiments on

brutes of a similar nature and with similar results; - This assertion however, has lately been proven to be erroneous; - The antidotes, which have been enumerated come to us under the highest authority, we should however receive them with doubts; - They should not be resorted to before we have tried emetics and the other remedies above mentioned. - It will be time enough to administer them after evacuations have been made from the stomach, then they may be given to correct the deleterious tendency of any of the poison that may remain, - But for arsenic, it must be granted that we have no remedy except vomiting and an antidote is still a desideratum. -

By vomiting however the whole will not be rejected, and a very small quantity may prove fatal. - All that we can do after giving emetics is to administer copiously the demulcent drinks, such as gum arabic and water, flax seed tea and other demulcent drinks,

Oils must be studiously avoided, for they
 give activity to the poison; notwithstanding
 however all our efforts the most alarming effects
 will result from the introduction of this poison
 into the stomach; From the inflammation of
 the stomach fever will occur similar to the
 yellow fever; We must in this case bleed copiously
 and apply blisters to the region of the stomach,
 and exercise all our means for calming the
 irritability of the stomach; But in cases of the
 system becoming completely under the influence of
 arsenic this treatment will not always answer. -
 The patient sinks and becomes completely
 prostrated with vomiting, low delirium, and
 other marks of increasing debility. - If the
 poison remain the case is fatal, we should
 here use the spirits of Turpentine, both by
 the stomach and rectum: -
 I have now detailed the causes, symptoms,
 and treatment of Gastritis, arising both from

the ordinary causes, and from poisons being
received into the stomach, and now take leave
of the subject, trusting enough has been said,
to direct us in the successful treatment of
the disease. —

Benjamin H. Moyer.

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Capitulum D. H. H. H.